

The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Thursday, August 29, 1996

Published Since 1877

Far from Macedonia...

Vietnamese city's only Baptist pastor cries for help

HO CHI MINH CITY, Vietnam (BP) — The leader of the only legally open Baptist church in Vietnam has issued a call for help to Vietnamese Christians and Southern Baptist mission agencies in the United States.

"I am praying to our merciful God who will call you, ministers and laymen, to return to Vietnam to serve the Lord among millions of our beloved countrymen's souls and serve our wounded country after many years of war," Le Quoc Chanh, pastor of Grace Baptist Church, said in a one-page letter.

Grace Baptist Church in Ho Chi Minh City (formerly known as Saigon) has grown from about 50 members to more than 500, Chanh said. It helps support several Baptist groups outside of the city. Last year it baptized more than 80 people.

"Vietnam now has diplomatic and commercial relations with the United States," explained a Christian worker in Vietnam who asked not to be identified. "Many former citizens of Vietnam have returned to open businesses or work in foreign-sponsored joint ventures. Although the law prohibits foreigners from serving in missionary or ordained pastoral roles, opportunities for Christian tentmakers abound."

"Pastor Chanh's letter directly appeals to Vietnamese Baptists in the United States to return and help evangelize their homeland," he said.

Opportunities and need await, explained Chanh in his letter. "Even the work of Grace Church was beyond my strength. So I pray — thinking of more than 72 million souls of Vietnamese people... and write this heart letter to you; it is a voice from Vietnam as same as a voice of Macedonia."

Chanh mailed his letter to the Viet-

namese Baptist Churches Fellowship and the Southern Baptist Home and For-

ign Mission boards.

The growth of Grace Church's ministries



Le Quoc Chanh (left), pastor of the only legally open Baptist church in Vietnam, has issued a call for help. Chanh's church, Grace Baptist in Ho Chi Minh City (formerly known as Saigon), has grown from about 50 members to more than 500 and helps support several Baptist groups outside of the city. Last year it baptized more than 80 people. "I am nearly 60 years old, and I feel my strength faint. I have only one assistant. The training of Christian workers... is limited," he wrote in a one-page letter to the Vietnamese Baptist Churches Fellowship and the Southern Baptist Home and Foreign Mission boards. His letter is seen as a plea to Vietnamese Baptists in the United States to evangelize their homeland. (BP photo by Warren Johnson)

is straining the body's leadership supply. Leadership training is difficult and has not kept up with the needs of young believers. Lay men and women qualified to help lead new groups are in short supply.

"I am nearly 60 years old, and I feel my strength faint," he said. "I have only one assistant. The training of Christian workers... is limited."

Pastor Chanh has served Baptist churches in Vietnam the past 33 years.

"He had many opportunities to flee Vietnam over the years, but he chose to remain at the church," said an unidentified worker. "Many people credit his decision to remain, even in difficult days of persecution, as the key reason why Grace Baptist Church has remained open."

There is only one Protestant seminary operating in Vietnam. Chanh estimates today there are about 2,000 Baptists and 720,000 Protestant Christians in Vietnam.

"God's work is developing, but laymen were seriously inadequate," the worker continued.

Several thousand ethnic Vietnamese worship in almost 100 Southern Baptist churches throughout the United States, explained the worker.

"Some (ethnic Vietnamese) became Christians years ago in Vietnam. Others were first touched by the gospel in refugee camps through Baptist ministry and some became Christian after being sponsored as refugees by Baptist families and congregations. In the past, they heard and responded to the gospel's call, and now that call continues."

Chanh is praying that some will hear the call. "I pray that God will call you and you will return to Vietnam with faiths of Noah and Abraham," he said.

Hardly surprising

The national news media is guilty of distorting the abortion issue in the U.S. to the extent that inaccurate and harmful portrayals of the pro-life movement are presented, according to a study commissioned by the National Conference of Catholic Bishops' Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities. The study, conducted by the Media Research Council, found that news media gave inflammatory labels to pro-life politicians while terming pro-abortion politicians as "moderate"; portrayed the pro-life movement as almost totally contained within the Republican Party; ignored or provided negative coverage of crisis pregnancy centers; and presented abundant coverage of violence by anti-abortion protestors while coverage of abortion advocates' violence was nearly nonexistent. Ben Mitchell, consultant on biomedical and life issues for the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission in Nashville, said the results of the study were hardly surprising. "The national news media operate from a worldview which forbids them from being honest with the facts and from objectively reporting what they do not understand and do not believe in. They have to be antagonistic. That's who they are," Mitchell said.

All in the family

The Hall family of Florida is accustomed by now to giving their sons to Southern Baptist ministry, and that tradition was brought forward into a sixth generation when Anthony Hall was ordained earlier this year by Pleasant Ridge Church in Grand Ridge, Fla. Standing behind Hall is a rich heritage of gospel preaching. His father, John Hall, has served as Pleasant Hill pastor for 27 years. His grandfather Roscoe is 97 years of age and still preaches on the radio although he is legally blind. Roscoe's father, grandfather, and great-grandfather — all named John Hall — preached in Southern Baptist churches along the Cumberland Gap in Kentucky. Anthony Hall said he felt God's call at age 16, but his attention was focused elsewhere. He studied sports science at the University of Florida and worked as a trainer for the school's football team. He couldn't escape the powerful sense of God calling him into the ministry, however. "When I was a senior in college, God was still knocking on the door, saying, 'I want you to work for me.' I think I did fight it just because my dad was a minister. I lost the fight," Hall said.

Looking Back...

10 years ago

For the third consecutive year, a William Carey College student is chosen to study abroad under the prestigious Rotary International Fellowship program. Gary Robertson will study chemical engineering at the University of York in Yorkshire, England.

20 years ago

Baptist Memorial Hospital in Memphis, owned in part by Mississippi Baptists, announces plans to construct a 400-bed, \$26 million satellite facility in east Memphis to serve that growing area and relieve demand on the downtown hospital.

50 years ago

The Executive Committee of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board votes emergency increases in the budgets of state programs aiding Negro Bible Institutes and Parchman prison evangelism, due to explosive growth in those ministries.

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Thursday, August 29, 1996

WILLIAM H. PERKINS JR.



The natural way

Binti Jua certainly has had her share of publicity for the past two weeks.

Binti Jua, you will recall, is the Western Lowland gorilla who rescued a 3-year-old boy Aug. 16 after he fell 18 feet into the primate exhibit at the Brookfield Zoo in Illinois.

With her own infant on her back, Binti cradled the unconscious boy, protected him from the other gorillas, and carried him to a gate where zookeepers could reach him.

The boy, whose parents requested he not be identified by name, was released from the hospital on Aug. 20 and is expected to make a full recovery.

This story indeed ends happily, but it's not the first of its kind.

About eight years ago, a young child in England suffered a similar fall into a zoo's gorilla exhibit. A

huge male gorilla, termed a Silverback because of the gray hair on his back that indicates his dominance over the troupe, raced over to the prone child, shooed away other gorillas, and seemed to comfort the child with gentle strokes until zookeepers arrived.

The American public has been fascinated by these events. Much has been made of Binti Jua's actions, captured on videotape.

News reporters, with predictable superficiality, have zeroed in on how "human" Binti acted. How could such a creature of lesser intelligence do something so noble, so uplifting, so... human?

The truth is that what Binti did was not so much human, as it was natural.

How troubling that we humans have become so sophisticated that we fail to recognize Binti's behavior

for what it was — natural.

How sad that so many humans have forgotten what the animals among us know by instinct — that the drive to protect and nurture our defenseless little ones is part of the nature God instilled in virtually all his creatures.

How pathetic that the life of a human child means more to a gorilla than to the parents of 1.5 million aborted children each year, and to the culture that has indulged infanticide for over 20 years.

Animals, born without the gift of reason, follow God's natural way without a conscious awareness of doing so.

Humans, blessed with the gift of reason, consciously forsake God's natural way and seem amazed when animals act in a different manner.

What's wrong with this picture?

"YOU MADE ALL THE DELICATE, INNER PARTS OF MY BODY, AND KNIT THEM TOGETHER IN MY MOTHER'S WOMB. ... YOU SAW ME BEFORE I WAS BORN AND SCHEDULED EACH DAY OF MY LIFE BEFORE I BEGAN TO BREATHE. EVERY DAY WAS RECORDED IN YOUR BOOK!"

—THE PSALMIST DAVID SPEAKING TO GOD.
(PSA. 139:13,16 LB)



Guest Opinion...

Christians should take closer look at popular "7 Habits"

By Bill Gordon

Last in a series

It may come as a surprise to many Baptists, but the popular personal training programs written and promoted by Stephen R. Covey are also meant to subtly promote his Mormon beliefs.

Ironically, one of the reasons his materials, such as "The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People," are so popular among many Christian leaders is because they give a prominent place to spirituality in personal growth.

Yet, "7 Habits" contains many of the same principles, anecdotes, and illustrations as found in one of Covey's earlier books, "The Divine Center," a book meant to promote Mormon beliefs and show that any spiritual model other than the Church of Latter-day Saints (LDS), including evangelical Christianity, is a false "map" that limits the personal development of its followers.

Covey, in teaching about "the upward spiral" in "7 Habits," writes, "Renewal is the principle — and the process — that empowers

us to move on an upward spiral of growth and change, of continuous improvement."

Not surprisingly, "The Divine Center" reveals he is referring to the Mormon principle of "eternal progression" (pp. 180, 207, 213). He claims that this "constantly expanding upward-spiraling movement in the development of the human soul... constitutes the road to perfection" (p. 207), and explains that "we eventually can become literally like Heavenly Father; we can become perfect, just as he and our elder brother Jesus Christ are perfect" (p. 77).

We have within us "the eternal seed of godhood," writes Covey (p. 206). Following the correct map found in the LDS Church "liberates man" and "releases his divine potentialities" (p. 246).

Covey's belief that people have a limitless potential is derived from the Mormon doctrine that people are gods in embryo (pp. 164-66). He writes, "Since we truly are sons and daughters of God the Eternal Father, we possess in embryo his nature and potential" (p. 166).

Covey contends that since we are "literally the Father's children" that we "can literally become perfect even as he is perfect" (p. 81).

He also claims, "Jesus was the first begotten in the spirit and the Only begotten in the flesh. He shows each of us that we can do it because he did it" (p. 78).

According to Covey, we should not get discouraged about the possibility of becoming perfect like God because we are of the same species as Jesus and God the eternal Father (p. 79).

Warning his readers against privately interpreting scripture, Covey advocates that they "look to the present prophet and (LDS) Church leaders and official Church policies for the manifestation of the Lord's will and interpretations" (p. 199).

He also writes, "The inspired words of living prophets may be of greater worth to us than the words of the dead prophets. Their words also can be scripture" (p. 199).

Those who oppose the LDS prophet are opposing the Lord and are guided by an evil spirit, Covey writes (p. 225), arguing that the LDS Church is "literally God's church and the President of the Church is truly God's prophet" (p. 224). Covey contends that "God will never allow his prophet to lead the Church astray" (p. 224).

Covey's beliefs about salvation are also uniquely Mormon. He warns his readers against seeking "any kind of 'special' relationship" with Jesus Christ (pp. 67-68), because the "Christ-only approach is inappropriate for Latter-day Saints and for this book" (p. 83).

Claiming that eternal life is only for those who obey the gospel principles (p. 294), Covey argues that the grace of Christ is not efficacious "except through our obedience to gospel standards of righteousness" (p. 158).

Covey labels the evangelical doctrine of salvation by grace alone a "false concept" and an "apostate doctrine" (p. 68), and even claims that one of Satan's lies to the world is that all God wants us to do is receive Christ Jesus through faith (p. 271).

This analysis of Covey's religious beliefs reveal they are Mormon, not Christian.

There is no doubt that churches and religious organizations should seriously reconsider whether it is appropriate to use a personal growth program written by someone who believes and openly promotes false doctrine.

They also need to decide if it is appropriate to promote Covey as an expert on personal growth and development that Christians should follow.

Gordon is associate director, Interfaith Witness Department, Home Mission Board.

BSSB exploring name change

NASHVILLE (BP) — As a continuing step in preparing for its 21st-century ministry, the Baptist Sunday School Board (BSSB) has named a 19-member employee committee and contracted with an outside consultant to study the name of the board, according to BSSB President James T. Draper Jr.

"We are entering this process with no preconceived ideas about whether our name should be changed," Draper said.

In the last five years, he said, the board has introduced a new vision statement, core values, operating principles, and business and financial objectives. Also, the board has been restructured and processes are being re-tooled to continuously improve products and services.

"Evaluating our name and making a conscious decision to retain it or make a change is a logical next step," Draper said. "With the Southern Baptist Convention undergoing major restructuring, including name changes for several denominational entities, this seems to be the right time to look at our name."

He said Mike Arrington, BSSB executive director for corporate affairs, is coordinating the project. Anspach Grossman Enterprise, a nationally known firm specializing in identity and name change, has been selected to work with the committee.

Representatives of Anspach Grossman have interviewed members of the BSSB executive management group and are beginning interviews of BSSB customers, employees and stakeholders (trustees, SBC leaders, media representatives and employees of companies that regularly do business with the board).

Based on the research, Arrington said the committee will formulate a recommendation to Draper and Ted Warren, executive vice president, in September on whether to retain the present name or move forward to identify options for adapting or changing the name.

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Prayer movements growing; Baptist resources available

ALPHARETTA, Ga. (BP) — Around every evangelical corner this fall is a call to prayer. Pray for revival. Pray for the lost. Pray for the president.

Four years ago the National & International Religion Report referred to an "unprecedented grass-roots prayer movement." Henry Blackaby, Southern Baptist leader in prayer and spiritual awakening, said he's noticed a growing emphasis on prayer during the last three years, but he added he "sees a crescendo building."

Larry Lewis, Home Mission Board (HMB) president who also is on the executive committee of a November fasting and prayer gathering, said Christians are emphasizing prayer now-more than any time he can recall.

While encouraged by the increased prayer activity, Blackaby warned against thinking of prayer as leverage to manipulate God.

"Our first motive in fasting and prayer must be to return to God," he said. "It must not be for what he will do in revival, regardless of how crucial the need for revival may be."

Upcoming prayer-focused activities include:

— Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) President Tom Elliff is leading convocations for pastors and other church leaders at seven seminaries.

— Arkansas pastor and SBC Executive Committee chairman Ronnie Floyd called Southern Baptists to focus on prayer and fasting and to seek revival during the week of Oct. 27 to Nov. 3.

— Celebrate Jesus 2000, the HMB strategy to present the gospel to every American by the year 2000.

— See You At the Pole Sept. 18. Christian students gather at their schools' flagpoles before class to pray for their peers and issues at their campuses (see article on page 5).

— A multidenominational effort called "Fasting and Prayer '96" scheduled for Nov. 14-16 in St. Louis.

— Presidential Prayer '96, labeled "non-partisan, non-denominational, and non-issue."

Among Southern Baptist resources for prayer ministries are:

A special edition of "Evange-

lism Today" will be printed in September. Produced by the HMB evangelism staff, the piece will include articles on authentic prayer and fasting and the biblical basis for prayer and fasting.

— The Watchmen Revival-Prayer Network links churches in a 24-hour prayer ministry focused on revival and spiritual awakening. For more information or to participate, call Keil at (770) 410-

6521 or (770) 410-6522.

— The Baptist Sunday School Board (BSSB) offers a Watchman Prayer Ministry planning kit, prayer guide, and promotional material, as well as a "Church Prayer Ministry-Manual" to help churches establish prayer ministries.

— Study books and a video on "Disciples Prayer Life: Walking in Fellowship with God" are

available from the BSSB.

— Guides to praying for the president, your spouse, family, and pastor are available from the Brotherhood Commission.

To order materials from the Home Mission Board, call (800) 634-2462. To order from the Sunday School Board, call customer services at (800) 458-2772. To order from the Brotherhood Commission, call (800) 727-6466.

THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

The Baptist Record

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Thursday, August 29, 1996

Published Since 1877

Mississippi Baptists joining North Korea famine relief

By-Carl M. White

Mississippi Baptists are joining Baptists from Arkansas and Tennessee in a campaign to provide food relief to the people of North Korea.

Called "Merry Christmas Korea," the Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) and Brotherhood of these three states have accepted the challenge of providing a minimum of 200 70-lb. boxes of food per state to fill a 20-foot container. The container will be shipped to Pyongyang, Korea, around Thanksgiving.

Cooperative Services International, a non-profit organization that provides humanitarian aid and developmental assistance to selected countries, is leading the food distribution effort in cooperation with the WMU and Brotherhood.

For many years the door to communist North Korea has been closed to Christian witness, said Paul Harrell, director of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Brotherhood Department.

However, the recently-acknowledged famine situation that now exists in that country has opened a limited door for Christian ministry, Harrell added.

According to Tokyo trade sources, as many as 100 people per day die of hunger in the city of Pyongyang alone.

Each 70-lb. food box will feed a family of four for one month.

Only a specifically-sized box

can be used. These 16-3/4" x 12-5/8" boxes can be secured from the Disaster Relief Ministry of the Brotherhood Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205. Telephone (601) 968-3800, or toll-free outside Jackson, (800) 748-1651.

- three 5-lb. bags of rice
- one 20-qt. box of powdered milk.

Food items should not be substituted. Stay with the request of food as provided. Each box will have a sticker attached that reads in both English and Korean, "Love Gift from Southern Baptist Christians of the United States of America."

Estimated cost of the food items is \$32.05. In addition, a check for \$20 made out to the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board/Korea Food Project, needs to accompany each box to cover the shipping cost.

Tracts, Bibles, or other printed materials should not be included in the boxes. North Korea is fearful of religion and of Christianity in particular. Including such materials could cause the small opening for ministry to North Korea to be closed, according to Harrell.

Directors of missions in the state have been asked to set a goal for the number of boxes that can be filled by the churches in their associations. Specific instructions for packing the boxes are available from associational offices and the Mississippi Brotherhood's Disaster Relief Ministry.

Boxes can be brought to the Lay Missions Conference on Oct. 28 or to the state convention, Oct. 29-30, and deposited with the Disaster Relief vans.

Agencies intensify efforts to confront hunger

NASHVILLE (BP) — Three Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) entities have forged a cooperative working relationship to equip Southern Baptists to respond more effectively to the needs of the hungry.

Alarmed by the ongoing decline in giving to world hunger needs, the Foreign Mission Board (FMB), Home Mission Board (HMB), and the Christian Life Commission (CLC) have jointly agreed to underwrite the cost of a new staff person at the CLC who will have the sole assignment of promoting hunger awareness.

The agencies are cooperating in the publication of a hunger guide. The booklet is designed to help local church leaders build hunger awareness within their congregations.

The theme for the booklet is "A Dollar In — A Dollar Out," reflecting the fact that 100% of money given goes directly to hunger relief.

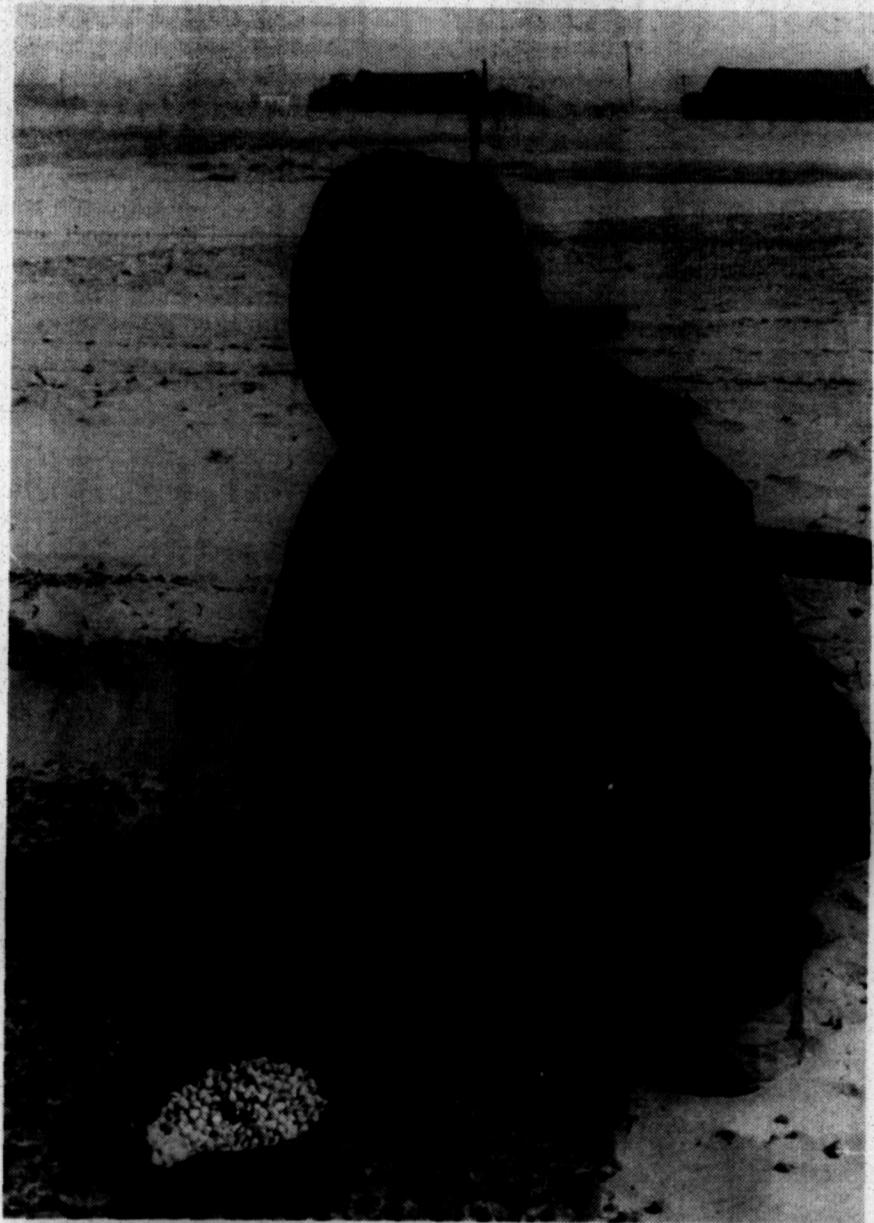
According to longstanding agreements, 80% of such gifts goes to relief efforts overseas, with the remainder sent to the HMB for hunger relief in the United States.

Southern Baptist hunger relief offering receipts peaked in 1985 and have been falling ever since. Don Kammerdiener, executive vice president of the FMB, noted the general public's interest in hunger seems to rise and fall depending on television news reports featuring stories of famine and starvation in faraway lands.

"Something seems to have changed in our culture," Kammerdiener said. "We are far more concerned about things close at hand."

Each box should contain the following:

- three 4-lb. bags of dried beans
- three 5-lb. bags of corn meal
- three 5-lb. bags of all-purpose (not self-rising) flour
- two 5-lb. packs of spaghetti



DESERT — A North Korean woman plants corn on a tiny patch of dirt, surrounded by a desert of sand and silt dumped on the land by last year's heavy flooding. In April, Southern Baptists were sending food aid to the stricken northern region, where many people were eating only one meal a day — or less. At that time, North Korean officials asked a visiting Southern Baptist relief team for help in feeding hungry inhabitants of a flood-ravaged city for the following six months. The aid supplied one meal a day to about 50,000 people. Now Mississippi, Arkansas, and Tennessee Baptists will step up their efforts to feed North Koreans suffering under the weight of the famine. Boxes of staple food items to be sent there around Thanksgiving are now being prepared by those states' Woman's Missionary Union and Brotherhood organizations. Each 70-lb. box of food will feed a family of four for one month, at a cost of about \$50.



Sealed with prayer

South Korean students seal their commitment to missions in a tearful group prayer during the recent Student Mission 2000 at Olympic Stadium in Seoul, South Korea. The rally, attended by more than 80,000 young people, was scheduled in conjunction with the Global Consultation on World Evangelization meeting in Seoul. Many of the students stayed for hours after the service, kneeling and praying on wet ground as a cold mist descended on the stadium. Southern Baptists are active on the Korean peninsula; in one case, Mississippi Baptists have joined Baptists in two neighboring states to provide food relief for famine-stricken North Korea. For information on that project, please turn to page 3. (BP photo by Don Martin)

Rescheduled women's conference set for Sept. 20-21 at Gulfshore

The Women's Celebration Conference, originally scheduled for February but cancelled due to an ice storm, has been rescheduled for September 20-21 at Gulfshore Assembly in Pass Christian.

Featured speakers for the rescheduled conference, which is being sponsored by the Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union (WMU), include:

— Lee Ezell of Newport Beach, Calif., national speaker on women's issues and a "humor therapist."

— Madeline Manning Mims of Tulsa, Okla., Olympic medalist and Christian recording vocalist.

— Anne Davis of Louisville, Ky., retired dean of the Carver School of Social Work at Southern Seminary in Louisville.

Registration will open at Gulfshore at 4 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 20. Dinner will be served at 5:30 p.m., and the program will begin at 7 p.m.

The conference will adjourn at 1 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 21.

Overnight accommodations are available at Gulfshore Assembly and at area motels. For a list of motels, contact WMU at the address or telephone number below.

Cost of the conference is \$50 per person with Gulfshore accommodations (includes three meals, lodging, program fees, limited insurance, etc.), and \$35 per person for commuters (includes same features except for lodging).

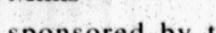
A no meals/no lodging option is available for \$20 per person.

Deadline for registration is Wednesday, Sept. 11. No refunds or transfers will be allowed after the deadline passes.

For more information or to obtain a registration form, contact WMU at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 968-3800 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.



Mims



Ezell

See You at the Pole sponsored by central Miss. youth leaders

A group of Christian teenagers in Texas met around their school flagpole in 1990 to pray for country, school, and peers. Since that time, millions of students on thousands of campuses around the world have gathered to pray.

This past January 25-30, Baptist youth leaders from middle Mississippi met at the National Youth Ministers Conference. The vision to create a middle Mississippi youth event that would cross racial and denominational lines grew out of this meeting.

Since January, a group of youth leaders has met on a regular basis to carry out this vision. Representatives from Baptist, Methodist, Presbyterian, Apostolic, non-denominational churches, and para-church organizations like Mission Mississippi and Young Life, have gathered.

As a result of this group's prayer and planning, the "Middle Mississippi See You at the Pole Rally Committee" was formed and incorporated for the purpose of facilitating the "Middle Mis-

sissippi See You at the Pole" event.

This rally is scheduled for Sat., Sept. 14, 6-8 p.m. at the Greater Bethlehem Apostolic Faith Church, 1505 Robinson St., Jackson.

Rebecca St. James and Tom Toombs have been secured as the guest artists. During the rally, St. James will be in concert, and Toombs will share through dramatic sketches.

Youth and youth groups attending the rally will receive material to facilitate a See You at the Pole (SYATP) prayer meeting for their campus. Material will also be available for those interested in beginning a Christian club on their campus.

SYATP school rallies will be held Wed., Sept. 18, at 7 a.m. at the specified areas on school campuses.

For more information, contact Stan Feener, Morrison Heights Church, (601) 924-5620; Charles Nikolic, Metro Association, (601) 362-8676; or David Bryant, First Church, Yazoo City, (601) 746-2471.



HMB specialist asks for electronic posting of See You at the Pole results

ALPHARETTA, Ga. (BP) — This year's See You at the Pole participants can report results of their gatherings on-line.

See You at the Pole is the annual meeting at school flagpoles for students to pray before class, said Dean Finley, Home Mission Board (HMB) youth evangelism specialist. See You at the Pole is the third Wednesday each September, making this year's date Sept. 18.

This year participants can report results of their meeting on the youth evangelism Internet home page. The address is <http://www.ozarksol.com/youth-sbc>. Results also can be sent to the board's CompuServe address: 103441.2742.

In previous years, reports have indicated as many as 60,000 students participated in See You at the Pole, Finley said. With the ease of electronic reporting, he hopes to have quicker, more accurate information. People who report their participation will be asked the name of their school and the number of participants. They also can leave short comments.

People without computer access can phone or fax results to (417) 862-1111 or write Youth Evangelism Office, 906 S. National, Springfield, Mo., 65804.

Other information on the youth evangelism Internet home page includes:

— A list of more than 5,000 secondary schools with Christian clubs. It could be used by families who move to a new area and want to know if a Christian club exists on a nearby campus, Finley said. The list includes names and telephone numbers of people to con-

tact about each club.

— Guidance on how to start a Christian club on campus.

— A bulletin board where participants can share ideas for youth ministry and ask for help with problems, such as what to do if a school's administration resists the

Christian club movement.

— Ideas on promoting "True Love Waits," the youth campaign that encourages sexual abstinence outside of marriage. Each campus will be encouraged to have its own True Love Waits emphasis next year on Valentine's Day.

God's Plan for Your Life

God loves you and has a wonderful plan for your life.

I am come that they might have life, and that they have it more abundantly — John 10:10
However, you might not be experiencing the abundant life because sin creates a separation between you and God's plan for your life.

For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God — Romans 3:23
For the wages of sin is death — Romans 6:23a

Human efforts to end this separation, such as living a good life for various religions, all fail. There is only one solution. Jesus Christ is God's answer to this separation.

But demonstrates his own love toward us. In that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us — Romans 5:8
He is our only way to God.

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through me — John 14:6

Aperson must individually receive Jesus Christ as Savior to find and experience God's wonderful plan.

But as many received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name — John 1:12
For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, that no one should boast — Ephesians 2:8,9

How to receive Christ:

1. Admit your need for God
2. Be willing to repent (turn away from) your sins.
3. Believe that Jesus Christ died on the cross for your sins and rose from the grave.
4. Through prayer, invite Jesus to come into your life.

If you make a decision for Christ today, contact your local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

Children's Village alumni celebrate at biannual reunion

Laughter and tears emerged as more than 100 alumni descended on the India Nunnery campus of the Mississippi Baptist Children's Village (MBCV), Aug. 10, for their biannual alumni reunion.

The reunion opened with special music by alumnus Deanie Ferrell, returned missionary to Ecuador.

Alumni president Chrystelle Thamas welcomed alumni to the meeting and introduced the key note speaker, Richard Polzin, alumnus and author of "Worthy is the Child."

The audience sat captivated as they listened to Polzin's testimony and how he and his wife Sharon came to write and illustrate the children's book.

Polzin treated the audience to an oral presentation of "The Perfect Hug," one of the stories in "Worthy is the Child." Polzin also signed books for alumni after he spoke.

The alumni also enjoyed hearing from alumnus Steve Roberson and his family as they sang several southern gospel songs.

Presentations were made before being dismissed to enjoy lunch together on MBCV Jackson campus.

Patty Lovett, who came from Anchorage, Alaska, to the reunion, was the alumnus who

traveled the farthest distance. Also present was Lewis Johansen, who traveled from Washington. Robin Millet English from Vicksburg received the award for most children — six children who were all present Saturday.

The oldest alumnus was Inez Dearman, 79, who lived at MBCV both as a resident and staff member.

The alumnus who holds the record for longest residency at the Village is Hazel McClintock (20 years). Also present was Horace Welch, who came to The Baptist Orphanage in 1926.

After lunch, the archive room was full as alumni enjoyed laughing and crying together while they reminisced about their days with life-long friends and family — some they have not seen for years.

"It was a real special day," said Ronnie Foster of Meridian, who also enjoyed visiting with fellow alumni until 2 a.m. at the hotel before coming to the meeting Saturday.

MBCV will celebrate its 100th birthday in 1997, and currently averages ministering to approximately 400 children in a 12-month period.

That calculates to thousands of children for whom Mississippi Baptists have cared.

FMB invited to work with China churches

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — The Foreign Mission Board (FMB) has been given a new opportunity to work with the China Christian Council, the Chinese government's official body for churches and ministries in China.

To implement the work, Gwen Crotts, a 20-year veteran of FMB work in Hong Kong, was appointed China ministry coordi-

nator, effective July 15. Crotts will live in Hong Kong and direct ministries and personnel in China who work with the Chinese Christian Council.

Crotts, of Phoenix, Ariz., served from 1987-95 as director of Hong Kong's Baptist Press, which publishes Christian literature for Chinese around the world.

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BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 5



Helping make disciples

Cheri Bullard (left photo, at left), member of Iuka Church, Iuka, and the Tishomingo Association, was selected by the Discipleship and Family Ministry (DFM) Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board to receive the "Director of the Year" award. Bullard has served 12 years as associational Discipleship Training director. **Cortez Hutchinson Jr.** (right

photo, at left), minister of education at First Church, Yazoo City, was awarded the "Friend of Discipleship Training" award by the DFM. This is an annual award presented to persons who have distinguished themselves as friends of the work of the department. Mose Dangerfield (at right in both photos) is director of the DFM Department.

Assemblies take hard line on Disney

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. (BP) — The 2.5-million-member Assemblies of God is on record urging a boycott of the Walt Disney Company.

The Assemblies of God stance — "we encourage our constituents to boycott Disney" — surpasses the 15.6-million-member Southern Baptist Convention's much-publicized resolution threatening a boycott if Disney continues its "anti-Christian and antifamily trend."

The Assemblies of God, the

nation's largest Pentecostal body with more than 11,800 churches, took action via its 250-member General Presbytery, which meets yearly and, after the General Council, is its second-highest legislative body.

The resolution, adopted unanimously Aug. 6, noted: "In recent years we have watched with dismay the productions of the Disney Corporation abandoning the commitment to strong moral values, and have noticed this moral shift in

a number of Disney-sponsored films and events."

The SBC resolution, adopted June 12 during the SBC annual meeting in New Orleans, encourages Southern Baptists "to give serious and prayerful reconsideration" to whether to attend Disney theme parks and purchase Disney products — and to boycott Disney if it continues "this antiChristian and antifamily trend."

The SBC resolution asked the Christian Life Commission "to monitor Disney's progress in returning to its previous philosophy of producing enriching family entertainment."

Recapping other religious organizations' Disney-related stances:

— The National Association of Free Will Baptists, encompassing 2,500 churches with 250,000 members, unanimously adopted a Disney boycott resolution July 25 during its annual meeting in Fort Worth.

— The Oklahoma State Church of God Ministerial Fellowship voted unanimously July 23 to adopt the SBC resolution as its own.

— "Texas Catholic," the newsjournal of the Catholic Diocese of Dallas, with a circulation of 75,000, editorialized June 28 in support of the SBC Disney resolution, noting: "... we applaud the Baptists for getting the message sent loud and clear to Disney."

— The publisher of "Charisma," the leading periodical of the charismatic movement, also editorialized in support of the SBC Disney resolution in the August issue of the Orlando-based periodical, with a circulation of 225,000.



Coldwater VBS sets gift record

During its summer Vacation Bible School (VBS), First Church, Coldwater, collected a record missions offering of \$1,047.05. The money went directly to Southern Baptist mission causes through the Cooperative Program. A "friendly competition" between the

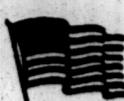
boys and girls who attended the VBS resulted in a gift of 417 pounds of coins, equalling the total offering. "We are thankful to our children and give God all the glory for providing a wonderful missions offering," said Bob Maddux, pastor.

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Thursday, August 29, 1996

World Changers youths rebuild more than houses in Natchez

By Audette Jenkins

Prisoners clad in their bright green and white striped outfits created a sharp contrast to the paint- and grime-covered youths repairing a house on Maple Street in Natchez.

Guards stood apart, keeping their eyes on the convicts, who were to clean up the massive pile of debris in front of the house. Seeing this, Robert Tillery, an adult leader from Jackson, Tenn., working on the house, gathered the youths to help these men clear the debris.

"It never occurred to me not to help those guys," said Tillery. The crew was one of many working on homes in Natchez as a part of a World Changers national work project taking place in the city July 13-20.

World Changers, sponsored by the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission, brings youths and adults from all over the country to renovate homes for a week in selected cities. This year, World Changers had 37 projects in 25 cities in the United States and Nicaragua.

More than 400 participants were in Natchez, working on 26 homes. The majority of the homes were located in the Woodlawn Historic District, chosen by World Changers in conjunction with the City of Natchez.

One of the youths, Mickie Mangrum, 18, of Fairview, Tenn., struck up a conversation with one of the convicts, Bossy Hunter, about sports.

Tillery approached the two and asked Hunter if he died today, would he go to heaven. Hunter replied, "I can't lie to you. I'd go to straight to hell."

Hunter said that he knew he

had done so many bad things that he could not go to heaven although he had accepted Christ earlier in his prison sentence. Hunter did not believe that his former profession of faith was enough to save him from hell.

Tillery showed Hunter some passages in the Bible concerning assurance of forgiveness and talked



with him about God and his unfailing love.

Later in the day, Hunter, smiling, came up to Tillery and said, "It's not what I do, but what Jesus did for me." At that point the tears welled up in his eyes as he made a commitment to live for Jesus Christ.

World Changers left an indelible impression on the community in terms of physical appearance and spiritual awakening. Throughout Natchez, World Changers could be felt changing the community.

At some of the historic ante-bellum homes, fees were waived for World Changers participants in honor of the work they were doing in the community. A Walmart employee remarked that World Changers had helped a number of people and made them smile.

Residents driving by some of the worksites stopped to offer words of thanks and encouragement. The

police said that since World Changers had been in town, there hadn't been anything for law officers to do. It seemed God moved in the Natchez community during the week, using World Changers as a catalyst.

The youths and adults were lodged at Natchez High School, where they slept on floors, ate in the cafeteria, and participated in nightly worship services. The 400 individuals used the time at night to focus on their relationships with Christ and their reasons for participating in World Changers. This time also helped to recharge them for the upcoming day of hard labor.

These youths and adults were able to make a difference within the community.

"It really showed me the power of God," said Mangrum. "When I saw the convicts come up, I said, 'No way,' but I honestly think we were brought together for a reason. I think God prepared that."

The participants represented 17 churches from seven different states including Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, North Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, and Virginia.

World Changers national work project locations included Beaumont and Riverside, Calif.; Savannah, Ga.; New Orleans and Shreveport, La.; Houston and New Braunfels, Texas; Clinton, Dayton, Jackson, Maryville, and Memphis, Tenn.; Vicksburg, Miss.; West Frankfort, Ill.; Charleston and Catawba, S.C.; Danville, Va.; Murphy and Raleigh, N.C.; Mobile, Montgomery, and Jefferson County, Ala.; West Memphis, Ark.; and Managua, Nicaragua.



Ron Mumbower, Ph.D.
Minister of Counseling
First Church, Jackson

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The Apostle Paul encourages us, "Forgetting what is behind and straining for what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus" (Phil. 3:13-14, NIV). Keep straining toward the goal for which God has called you heavenward. Of course, your husband should be doing the same thing, but if he is not, that doesn't lessen your responsibility to press on. You do not have the power within yourself to break the bond between your husband and this woman. If you pray, model your wedding vows, and release your husband to the higher power of God, you may be surprised what God can do in his life. Keep your focus on God — not your husband or son — and God will lead you.

Send your counseling questions to LifeAnswers c/o The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Please be brief. Name is not required. Remember: in time of crisis, your pastor can make recommendations on your counseling needs.

Revival Dates

Heucks Retreat, Brookhaven:
Sept. 8-12; 7 p.m.; Talmadge Smith, Lincoln Association director of missions, evangelist; Nick Davis, music; Ken Kirk, pastor.

Calvary, Gloster: Sept. 8-11; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Tommy Middleton, Baton Rouge, La., evangelist; Brian Jemison, New Orleans Seminary, music; Errol J. Faust, pastor.

First, Shannon: Sept. 8-11; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Al Gaspard, Houston, evangelist; Dudley Brasher, music; Mark Cayson, pastor.

Crestview (Lebanon): Aug. 25-30; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7:30 p.m.; Bobby Shurden, Hattiesburg, evangelist and music; Raymond Parkin, pastor.

First, Lake: Sept. 8-11; Sunday, 11 a.m., noon luncheon, and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Bill Webb, Meridian, evangelist; Marion Felton, Lake, music; LaVerne Summerlin, pastor.

Mashulaville (Noxubee): Sept. 8-11; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; W.G. Robertson, Mexia, Ala., evangelist; Tim Horton, Macon, music; Olyn Roberts, pastor.

Crossview, Brandon: Sept. 29-Oct. 2; Sunday, 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; James Foster, DeVille, La., evangelist; Don Williams, pastor.

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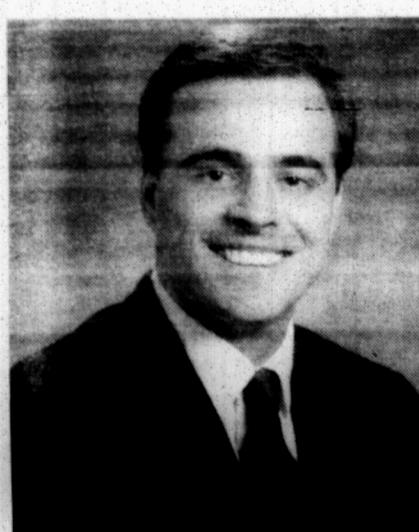
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Staff Changes

Hopewell Church, Bude, has called **Rusty Bowlin** as pastor, effective Aug. 11. He is a native of Meadville. Bowlin previously served as interim pastor at Ramah Church, McCall Creek.

Cindy Still, former minister of education at **First Church, Pascagoula**, has left that position to become single adult consultant in the Family Ministry Department of the Missouri Baptist Convention. The Evergreen, Ala., native served on the staff of First, Pascagoula, for five years.

Second Church, Kosciusko,

has called **Rickey McKay** as pastor, effective Sept. 1. He received his education at Clarke College and Mississippi College. He formerly served Goodhope Church, Batesville.

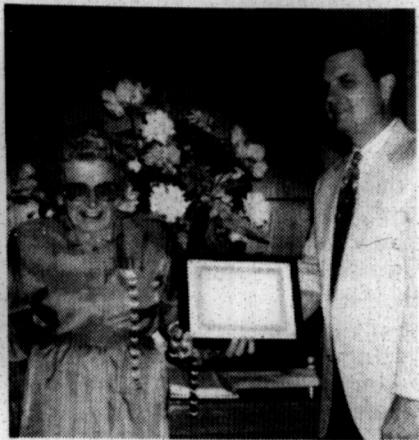
Dennis Atwood has moved from University Church, Baton Rouge, La., as minister to young adults to **Webster Groves Church, St. Louis, Mo.**, as pastor. A Mississippian, Atwood served at Northside Church, Clinton; First Church, Jackson; and as Baptist Student Union director at Mississippi College and the University of Southern Mississippi.

Names in the News

William E. (Billy) Byrd was named the 1996 Churchman of the Year at First Church, Yazoo City, on homecoming day, Aug. 18. He has served on the personnel committee, bus committee, and was chairman of the stewardship committee. He is a member of the deacons' council and has served as council chairman. David Raddin is pastor.



Bruce Crosby (left) was licensed to the gospel ministry by Bogue Chitto Church, Bogue Chitto, on Aug. 4. Crosby is currently a student at New Orleans Seminary and is available for interim or supply work, telephone (601) 734-2490. Bill Hudson (right) is pastor.



Hattie Leatherwood (left) of Calvary Church, Corinth, was recognized on Aug. 11 for completing 45 years of perfect attendance in Sunday School. Warren H. Jones (right) is pastor.

Homecomings

Shady Grove (Panola): Sept. 8; 11 a.m.; Billy Howse, pastor of Moak's Creek Church, Bogue Chitto, guest speaker; lunch served; afternoon singing; Gospel Aires Quartet, singers.

Friendship East, Charleston: Sept. 8; 136th anniversary; music, 10 a.m., featuring Ricky Mabry and Wyomman Reeves;

County Line marks 150th

County Line Church, Carthage, will celebrate its 150th anniversary on Sept. 15, beginning with the morning worship service at 10 a.m.

Speaker for that service will be H.C. Adams of Kosciusko.

A covered dish meal will be served in the fellowship hall after the morning service.

Levon Moore of Kosciusko will be the guest speaker for the afternoon service.

Both the morning and afternoon services will feature the County Line Church choir, guest musicians, and former pastors.

Paul Williamson is interim pastor.

worship, 11 a.m., H.B. Vinson, guest speaker; noon meal; J.G. Thomas, pastor.

Wheeler Grove, Corinth: Sept. 8; regular morning worship service, followed by covered dish lunch; 7 p.m. concert by The Hoppers.

Just for the Record

The River Birch Minister/Staff Golf Tournament will be held at the River Birch Golf Course, Amory, at 8:30 a.m. on Sept. 10. The cost of the tournament is \$30. If interested, write Jim Harrington, P.O. Box 127, Becker, MS 38825 or call (601) 256-8778 or 256-2360 (night).

Crossview Church, Brandon, will celebrate its 10th anniversary on Sept. 29. The times are 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m. The guest speakers will be Matt Buckles, Madison, and Sam Creel, Brandon. Others on program will include Dave Michels and James Foster. Don Williams is pastor.

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Alaskans conclude anniversary, appeal for worker permit changes

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (BP)—Alaska Baptists, concluding their 50th-anniversary year, framed their annual meeting with the theme, "Sound the Trumpet in the Year of Jubilee."

Messenger registration totaled 199, representing the 65 churches and 23 missions in the state Baptist convention.

The convention's 50-year history, "This Is the Work of God" compiled and edited by retired Alaska home missionary Louise Yarbrough, was published in time for the Aug. 6-7 gathering at First Church, Anchorage.

The sessions were marked by "unanimity in business sessions, inspiration in messages and challenges to action," said LaVerne Bradshaw, convention recording secretary and assistant editor of the "Alaska Baptist Messenger" newsletter.

A volunteer-related concern was voiced in one of the resolutions adopted by messengers, urging the Alaska commissioner of labor to: "Seek changes in regulations that would allow temporary permits be issued to allow licensed electricians and plumbers from other states who volunteer their time and labor without compensation to work on Alaska churches under the supervision of an Alaskan administrator."

The messengers stated "it is often not convenient or possible for (the volunteers) to take the Alaskan test to qualify for an Alaskan electrical and plumbing license."

The resolution reminded that Alaska Baptist churches "often do not have funds to enter into construction projects on a turnkey contract" and thus "often must rely on volunteer labor," including "highly qualified licensed electricians and plumbers from Baptist churches in other states... available



NORTH TO ALASKA — For the third summer Jasper county volunteers participated in a mission project near Anchorage. Thirteen people representing 6 churches stayed 2 weeks conducting Backyard Bible Clubs and doing construction work in Tyonek and Palmer, Alaska. Participants include: back row (l-r): Chad Ivy, Jeremy Abbott, Nancy Grayson, Brenda Ivy, Roger Ivy, James Smith, Ramona Doggett; front row (l-r): Suzanne Pender, Corey Doggett, Bobby Grayson, Jacky Smith, Judy Smith, Stanley Doggett.

and willing to travel to Alaska for one or two weeks to volunteer their time and labor."

Messengers also adopted a resolution supporting the Southern Baptist Convention's potential boycott of the Walt Disney Company if anti-family trends in the corporation continue.

The Alaska resolution said the SBC resolution, adopted last June, "noted many valid concerns over the recent performance of the Disney Corporation in such areas as the production of lewd, immoral and anti-Christian motion pictures and the promotion of the homosexual way of life."

The Alaska messengers said they "endorse, support, and join the boycott of Disney."

They added: "... we covenant to pray daily for our nation that is rushing toward moral decay and national decline" and "we reassert our number one priority, personal

evangelism, as the way God desires to turn a lost world to him, and commit to invest ourselves daily in reaching and winning our neighbors and acquaintances unto Jesus Christ."

In officer elections, Wally Smith, pastor of Faith Church, Fairbanks, is new president, winning a ballot over Marvin Owen, pastor of First Church, Anchorage. Elected unanimously were Terry Hill, pastor of Rabbit Creek Community Church, Anchorage, first vice president and Jim Clark, First Church, Palmer, second vice president.

Messengers approved a 1997 budget of \$1,599,438, a decrease of \$93,679 or 5.5%. In Cooperative Program giving from the churches, \$568,000 is anticipated, a .049% decrease from the current year, with 33% to continue to be forwarded to national and international SBC ministries.



Tiplersville vols minister in Atlanta

Members of Providence Church, Tiplersville, ministered at the '96 Summer Olympic Games in Atlanta. Members of the group include: (left to right) front row, Jessica Montgomery, Stephanie Camburn, Janalee Jackson, Melanie Hill, Heather Camburn, Kerry McKee;

middle row, Kim Hardy, Vicki Skinner, Linda Hobson, Paula DeVore, Gena Camburn, Debra Lacefield; back row, John Davis, Gary Joyner, Thomas Morrow, Al Hobson, Jody Akins, Ben Tomlinson, Melissa Joyner. (Photo by Cynthia Cross)

Golden Triangle reports successes in endeavors for Christ

By Bill Duncan

The Golden Triangle Association, composed of Clay, Lowndes, and Oktibbeha counties, is actively involved in a number of mission efforts. Dana Darby, a summer missionary sponsored by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, has been working there since early June with National Baptist churches.

His main focus has been teaching church growth strategy, witnessing training, and church etiquette. He has worked with Backyard Bible clubs, Vacation Bible schools, and has taught an adult Bible study each Wednesday.

Darby stated that many of the churches seem to be based more

in traditionalism than biblical truth. He says that the reception he has received has been positive — people have a concern for the lost and are open to change, new ideas, and ways of improvement.

Mt. Vernon Church, Columbus, voted to sponsor a mission near the Alabama line in Lowndes County. This had been a Methodist congregation since 1883, but had dwindled to a membership of nine.

Randy Rigdon, a lay minister, was called in an interim capacity in May. Since that time, the congregation has grown to about 50 in attendance. God continues to honor the faith and fervent

prayers of Rigdon and this body by constantly meeting needs.

The church currently has two worship services on Sunday, four Sunday School classes, and a Tuesday night discipleship/prayer life study. They conducted Vacation Bible School July 22-26 with help from the youths of Mt. Vernon.

Five years ago, First Church, Eupora, conducted a survey of the community. Randy Wilson and his team were in a predominantly African-American part of town. During their time there, several people responded to the sharing of the gospel and accepted Christ as Savior.

Realizing the need for an organized ministry in this area, Wilson began Bible studies in homes that later led to worship services. The mission is currently meeting in an old hardware building in Eupora and runs a bus

to bring in children, youths, and adults.

Trying to find sponsorship for this endeavor met with one obstacle after another. Recently, First Church, Starkville, voted unanimously to sponsor this work. This sponsorship by a church will open many doors for the Miracle Land Mission and allow Wilson and those involved locally in this ministry to expand their efforts in sharing Christ in a needy area.

James and Shirley Partin enjoy the view of the Tombigbee River from their front porch. On any given Sunday, at 12:30 PM, they are joined by 12-18 others for a time of Bible study, music, and Christian fellowship.

The Partins are members of West End Church, West Point. Their son, Terry Partin, is pastor.

Members of West End, along with members from First Church,

West Point, share a vision for a church in this area. It is 11 miles in any direction to a church. They believe God is blessing the beginning efforts here and they continue to praise Him for his blessings.

The literal translation of the Great Commission tells us: "As you go into all the world...." We learn in "Experiencing God" that we are to find where God is already working and get busy with him there. The above are examples of people doing just that. God continues to give us the mission.

Duncan is director of missions, Golden Triangle Association.

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capsules

TEXAS MUSIC MINISTER IS SBC PRESIDENTIAL HOPEFUL: HEARNE, Texas (BP) — Dan Bates, minister of music at First Church, Hearne, Texas, wrote in a letter to the editor in the July 31 issue of the Texas "Baptist Standard" that he will "run against Tom Elliff's re-election as president of the SBC in Dallas in June 1997." Bates said he wanted to create a "Southern Baptist Bureau of Reclamation," which he said would restore some of the Baptist distinctives lost during the past 16 years of the conservative resurgence at the national level of the denomination. He cited the loss of "freedom, liberty, and the doctrine of the priesthood of the believer."

FORMER FMB LEADER FRANK MEANS DIES: RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — Frank K. Means, a leader in Foreign Mission Board overseas efforts for 23 years, died Aug. 14 after a long illness. He was 84. Means was one of the few people elected as a director of Southern Baptist overseas missionary work who had not served as a missionary himself. From 1954 until his retirement in 1977, he was an area secretary, first in Latin America, then the Caribbean and South America as Baptist work in the region expanded.

HMB RADIO ANNOUNCEMENTS RECEIVE POSITIVE RESPONSE: ALPHARETTA, Ga. (BP) — "Save the Family," a set of 12 radio public service announcements sent to 7,500 stations nationwide, is receiving favorable responses from secular and Christian stations. Comments on the response cards included "Great spots," "These are great. Keep them coming," and "Superb spots." Produced by the Home Mission Board, the ads encourage commitment to families and integrity. The package asks radio stations to "Help us conserve the nation's most precious natural resource... the American family." To order a copy of the spots, call Home Mission Board customer services at (800) 634-2462 and request product 211-119P. The set of ads costs \$19.95.

MISSIONS-MINDED EVANGELIST BOB CLEMENTS DIES AT 68: AUSTIN, Texas (BP) — Bobby Gene "Bob" Clements, a widely traveled Southern Baptist evangelist from Texas, died Aug. 9 after a heart attack. He was 68. Clements completed an eight-year stint as a trustee of the Foreign Mission Board last year and was a pastor more than 30 years. He had four sons — all Baptist ministers — and a daughter, a pastor's wife.

RTVC BROADCASTS AVERAGING 1,000-PLUS RESPONSES MONTHLY: FORT WORTH (BP) — During the first 10 months of its fiscal year, the counseling department of the Radio and Television Commission reported 12,063 letters or phone calls resulting from RTVC-produced or sponsored radio and television programs and its pages on the Internet. "Of the numbers we're reporting, 238 received Christ as Savior, 113 inquired about salvation and 367 received referral to a local church," said Pat Wooley, RTVC director of counseling. "Invitation to Life," featuring the preaching of Ronnie Floyd, pastor of First Church, Springdale, Ark., received the most response: 6,598 telephone calls. "The Baptist Hour" television program, which features the preaching of Frank Pollard, pastor of First Church, Jackson, received the second-largest number of responses: 1,790 telephone calls, of which 541 required correspondence follow-up. Volunteers at four Fort Worth churches staff the phone bank for "The Baptist Hour." Other RTVC-produced television programs generating response were "COPE," 915 letters; "Country Crossroads," 112 letters; and "Home Life," three letters. RTVC staff counselors responded to 61 people on the World Wide Web and handled 239 miscellaneous pieces of correspondence.

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GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH, Philadelphia, Miss., is seeking an individual for the position of Minister of Music and Activities. Resume may be sent to Grace Baptist Church, P.O. Box 239, Philadelphia, MS 39350.

KEMPER ASSOCIATION is seeking a bi-vocational DOM. Please send resumes to Gilbert Allan, P.O. Box 802, DeKalb, MS 39328.

HEIDELBERG STAINED GLASS, Meridian. Design, Fabrication, Repair. MURPHY ROBE SALES. Call (601) 483-3171 or 1-800-368-2705.

DON'T TELL ME the Bible Says That! Former pastor at Booneville and Meridian recounts amusing wrong answers to student Bible test questions as professor at

Houston Baptist University nearly thirty years. Includes correct answers and illustrative cartoons. Price: \$19.95. Postage: \$2.50. Dr. Al Collins (713) 774-7881, Box 740098, Houston, TX 77274.

HEALING FOODS of the Bible. 25-page report. \$9.95 to: GENE-SIS, P.O. Box 65, Dept. BR100, Yazoo City, MS 39194.

FANTASTIC OLD TIME dessert recipes. Great for church socials and family gatherings. Send \$2 to: Pies & Cakes, P.O. Box 677, Dumas, MS 38625.

SMALL CHURCH LOOKING for music director. If interested, write: Box 7138, Jackson, MS 39282-7318.

WANTING TO BUY Church bus, '90 or newer. Slate Springs, MS. Day: Billy (601) 628-5262. Night: Eddie (601) 637-2792.

CHURCH ORGANIST/PIANIST in the Lawrence County area. Ability to play hymn anthems and octavo. Send resumes to — Tammy Thames, Rt. 1, Box 110, Monticello, MS 39654 or contact by phone: (601) 587-7735 after 5:00 p.m.

MINISTER OF MUSIC: Bi-vocational, Roxie Baptist Church, Roxie, MS. Contact Lavon Combs at (601) 332-6602.

COPIAH BAPTIST ASSOCIATION is taking resumes for a part time Director of Missions. If interested, send resume to: Copiah Baptist Association, P.O. Box 210, Hazlehurst, MS 39083. Deadline for receiving resumes is September 12, 1996.

Uniform Following the Lord



By Jim Phillips
2 Kings 18-20

On a Sunday morning in May, my son and I encountered a snake approaching the house as we were leaving for Brotherhood breakfast at our church. I tried to keep him cornered in the flowerbed while I screamed through the window at my wife to retrieve the hoe. When the hoe arrived I commenced to hack and hoe away at the flowerbed and weeds but the snake had slipped past my keen eyes. My wife graciously commented that with all the damage I had caused, the least I could have done was to destroy the intruder. (Three weeks later she won the spoils of battle over the snake in the corner of our carport.) I recollect a time when another woman in another garden had not fared as well when confronted by another snake.

King Hezekiah of Judah was one who in his day did all he could to rid his family and country of all threatening forces. He came to power at the mere age of 25 but ruled with the wisdom of a senior adult. The scriptures note that he rightly chose his mentor (David) so as to select the right examples for which to pattern his life. No greater description could be given of a person other than "He did right in the eyes of the Lord" (18:3). Young people today need to be taught that such a favorable reputation before God is of a much greater value than what reputation they feel their peers want them to have. Hezekiah was far from perfect but his God-consciousness had begun to mature him in a right understanding toward God and his Word. He knew the Lord was with him because, "He held fast to the Lord and did not cease to follow him" (v. 6).

This same growing relationship to God impacted his abilities as king and brought him success in whatever campaigns he undertook. There seems thus to be a direct correlation between obedience to God and success. The people of our churches need to hear that more. So much of our society seeks to define success in the context of worldly wealth and personal gain. The Bible equates success with doing right before God and following his commands. Out of his personal convictions, Hezekiah's effectiveness as a king has been preserved in scripture for all to see.

As he took stock of the conditions of society, Hezekiah set out to rid whatever threats to the people existed in the land. It wasn't enough that only his life be governed by God's commands, but rather where he had influence, he set out to make a difference in society as well (v. 4). Have you ever felt that the world or your community is just too big for you to make a difference? After all, it didn't get corrupt and deplorable before God overnight and just what difference could little you make in your lifetime? I'm sure that is precisely what Satan would like for us to think. As long as he had breath, Hezekiah's life would count for the Lord and his commandments and his influence would make a difference. No one was going to threaten or coerce him from complete obedience (v. 7).

Toward the end of his life, Hezekiah became privileged to the counsel of God through the prophet Isaiah. He however failed to fully listen to such counsel and it gradually led to his demise. Though God had brought both wealth and even healing to his body (20:1-7), Hezekiah became captivated by pride. His success had led him to parade his spoils to the enemy which eventually led to his losing what God had allowed him to hold (vv. 12-17). To add to the horror of his collapse, the time eventually arrived when not only his treasures were carried off to Babylon, but his sons as well.

The world we're all a part of does seem to be bent on destroying itself. We're all susceptible to temptation and sin and still God brings forth his Word to show us the error of our ways. In our families we can maintain a positive influence but our source of authority and influence must be based on the commands of God. No parent should ever be afraid to say to their kids, "Because the Bible says so!" If we're going to keep the Snake from the house, our personal commitment to God's Word in both word and deed must be evident in our lives. The sanctity and safety of our own kids is surely worth that. May God grant us the wisdom of Hezekiah to "hold fast to the Lord and not cease to follow him."

Phillips is pastor, North Greenwood Church, Greenwood.

Bible Book 7 vials of judgement



By Ronald Bishop
Revelation 15, 16

Singing God's praises (15:1-4). Revelation 15 begins another vision of God's victory over evil. John envisioned seven angels, each having a vial or bowl containing a plague sent by God upon his enemies. John's readers are told that these plagues are God's last attempt to show the Romans their error before their downfall. In the midst of this terrible prelude to doom, God's people are seen singing a song in praise of God and the Lamb.

Preparing for God's judgment (15:5-8). Then John saw the temple of the tent of witness, a combination of the two major places of worship in the Old Testament. Coming from the temple were the seven angels who were to deliver the seven plagues. The plagues of God are delivered to the angels by one of the four living creatures that surround the throne of God. The plagues are contained in golden bowls similar to the bronze basins used by the Hebrew priests in their sacrificial worship. During the presentation of the plagues, the temple was filled with smoke symbolizing the glory of God. No one could enter the temple during this time, for God was executing his wrath.

Delivery of God's wrath (16:1-21). A loud voice then told the seven angels to pour out the plagues on the earth, presumably upon the persecutors of the Christians and God's enemies. The first angel poured out the plague of terrible, foul sores upon those who bore the mark of the beast and worshiped its image. John wanted to make sure his readers understood the consequences of bowing to Caesar. The second angel poured his bowl into the sea. This action caused the sea to turn to blood, killing every living creature in the sea. This great destruction is even greater than that of Revelation 8 where one-third of the sea is ruined.

The third angel poured his plague into the fresh water sources. They also became blood. Most people find blood to be distasteful. For the Hebrews, this situation was more than one of taste. God had forbidden them to eat meat with the blood in it. The blood was thought to contain the life of the animal. To be forced to drink blood was an abomination. The fourth angel poured his plague into the sun. This time the sun is not darkened (see Rev. 8:12). Instead, the light of the sun, required for life, becomes so intense that it scorches anything it contacts. The enemies of God become so angry that, instead of repenting of their sins, they cursed God.

The fifth angel carried the plague of darkness, which he poured out upon the throne of the beast, and its kingdom was in darkness. Darkness was a serious problem for ancient peoples who did not have artificial light sources as we have today. This darkness hindered commerce and every-day life. The darkness intensified the other plagues and frustrated the people so much that they gnawed their tongues in anguish. Life was almost unbearable. They continued to curse God rather than to repent of their sins and receive relief.

The sixth angel poured his bowl upon the Euphrates river, and its water was dried up. The purpose of the dry riverbed was so that God could muster the kings of the east to join the Romans for God's final battle against them all. From the dragon and the beast come forth three foul spirits, demonic spirits, who convince the kings of the earth to assemble for battle. The kings assembled at the mountain of Megiddo (*Har-Megiddo* in Hebrew), popularly known today as Armageddon.

The seventh angel then poured his bowl into the air. A loud voice then proclaimed, "It is done." The great city of Rome (Babylon in metaphoric language) was split into three parts. God brought final punishment upon the evil ones who were denying him and persecuting his people.

In these chapters John wanted to stress the point that God will act decisively to defeat evil. Sometimes the patience of God's people gets short. That is when they need to know that God is working out his grand scheme. Though evil may afflict Christians in every generation, God continually defeats evil and one day will finally defeat evil completely.

Bishop teaches philosophy and religion at Jones County Junior College, Ellisville.

Life and Work Faith's foundation



By Cynthia Douglas
Hebrews 1, 2

What is faith? Why is Jesus the only way to know God and find fulfillment? This session begins a study of Hebrews where God's Word answers questions and reveals why Jesus is the only true foundation of faith.

The writer of Hebrews describes our direct access to God. Jesus is that one person who can take us in the very presence of God. The theme of Hebrews is "Let us draw near to God" (10:22a).

The Jewish people understood the need for a perfect priest and a perfect sacrifice. The writer of Hebrews says Jesus was the perfect priest. Because he was wholly man, he could take men to God. Because Jesus was wholly God, he could take God to men. Jesus is the only person to give man access to God, which is the central theme of Hebrews.

Jesus reveals God supremely (Heb. 1:1-3). The writer to the Hebrews begins by contrasting Jesus with the prophets. True, the prophets had spoken for God but now "He has spoken to us by his Son" (v. 2). Two pictures of Jesus are given.

First, Jesus was God and he revealed to us exactly what God is like. Second, Jesus was the exact likeness of God. The Jews needed to hear the message that Jesus was supreme over all the Old Testament — greater than any prophet, message or revelation. Jesus revealed God supremely.

Jesus was the full and complete revelation of God. He met the demands for our redemption from sin. He was the perfect sacrifice. Now Jesus is with God making intercession for us.

Jesus provides salvation (Heb. 2:1-4). After declaring the superiority of Jesus, the writer of Hebrews wanted the hearers to respond to God's salvation! He gave a warning to non-Christians who knew the gospel intellectually but who had not received it personally into their lives. Chapter 1 told who Jesus was — God in the world, God of creation, the One who paid our sin debt.

In Chapter 2 the appeal is to not neglect so great a salvation. Three great reasons are given. The first reason is because of who Jesus is. The caution given in verse 1 is that "we do not drift away." This does not teach that believers can become lost, rather it cautions against stagnation and a lack of growth. Only a personal commitment to Jesus Christ will save a person.

The second reason not to neglect the gospel of salvation is because judgment is certain. Verses 2 and 3 present the certainty of judgment for those who do not accept Christ.

The third reason is God confirmed this gospel with signs, wonders, miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit. Salvation is provided for everyone, but each person must respond in personal surrendering faith to be saved.

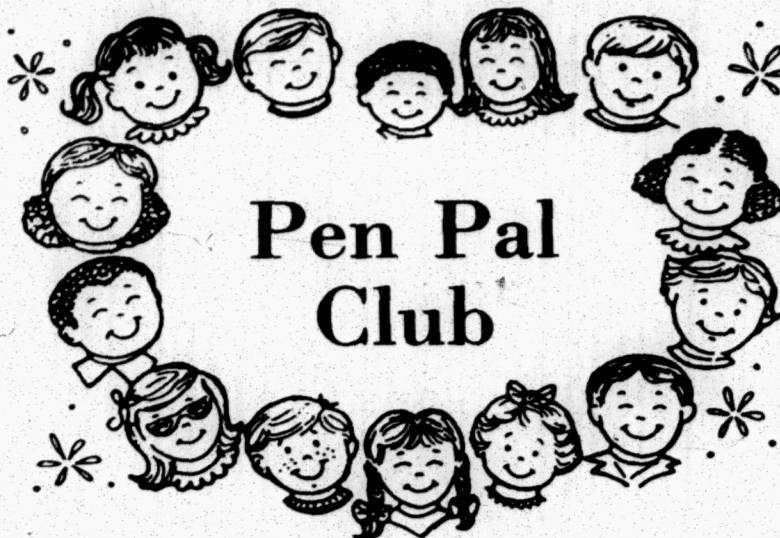
Jesus identifies with us (Heb. 2:17-18). Jesus came not only to provide salvation for us but he also came to sympathize with our every emotion and temptation. Jesus became our merciful and faithful high priest. He made atonement for sin by which we are saved and he also helps us when we are tempted. Being completely human, Jesus felt the impact of temptation yet he was able to overcome every trial.

Therefore, Jesus not only provides salvation, he is with us in our testings to provide help. He performs perfectly the role of the high priest — representing us before God and he sympathizes with us in every situation.

What is faith? Faith is belief in and personal commitment to Jesus Christ for eternal salvation. Jesus Christ is the only true foundation of faith. He alone was perfectly God, perfectly man, the provider of salvation by his death and resurrection, our high priest and the One who sympathizes with our sufferings.

Douglas is a member of First Church, Columbus.

CHILDREN'S PAGE



Pen Pal Club

Dear Pen Pal Club:

Hi! My name is Jennifer Rose. I am 15. I will be in the 10th grade this fall. I like to sing, talk, exercise, be myself, and write poems. Anyone can write to me but expect something different back. I am a Christian and go to Hamburg Church. I have eight brothers and sisters, including me. I have two pets. I will listen to any kind of music. I like to express my thoughts with my poetry.

Please write me:

c/o Hamburg Baptist Church
Route 2 Box 108
Roxie, MS 39661

Dear Pen Pal Club:

Hi, my name is Courtney Netherland, but my friends call me "Cricket." I live in Hamburg. I'm 13-1/2 years old. I will be in eighth grade this fall at Franklin Junior High School. I am an active participant and baptized Christian at Hamburg Church. I like to write poems and letters, talk to my friends, talk on the phone, read, listen to music, make string bracelets, and I love to go to church and learn about Jesus Christ. I would prefer someone between the ages of 12 and 16 but I'd write anybody! Boy or girl!

Write anytime:

c/o Hamburg Baptist Church
Route 2 Box 108
Roxie, MS 39661

Dear Pen Pal Club:

Hey! My name is Janice Moody and I am 16 years old. I go to Chesterville Church, where my dad is the pastor. My hobbies are going out with friends, going to the mall, and talking on the phone. I would like a boy or girl pen pal.

Please write me at:

376 Road 41
Tupelo, MS 38801

Dear Pen Pal Club:

Hi. My name is Jennifer Chaney. I am 11 years old. My hobbies are playing baseball, reading, and swimming. I own a dog and cat. I live on a farm. I have 1 brother. I go to church at First Church, Coldwater. I am home-schooled. I am a Christian.

Write to:

Route 3 Box 497
Coldwater, MS 38618

Dear Pen Pal Club:

Hey! My name is Richard Chaney. I am eight years old. I go to church at First Church, Coldwater. My hobbies are: baseball, basketball, and football. I am home-schooled. I live in the country. I

would like to hear from someone about my age. My address is:

Route 3 Box 497
Coldwater, MS 38618

Dear Pen Pal Club:

My name is Bradley Gilmore. I'm 11 going into the sixth grade, and I go to Milam Intermediate School. I am saved and got baptized when I was eight years old. My hobbies are: riding my bike, singing, going to church, and seeing my grandmother. I go to Skyline Church. I have one dog and lots of farm animals. I love to listen to WFAR Star Radio. My birthday is Oct. 11, 1984. I would like for anyone to write me. It doesn't matter where you're from, what you look like. Please send a picture of yourself. Please write me:

c/o Skyline Baptist Church
2864 Highway 178 East
Tupelo, MS 38801

Dear Pen Pal Club:

Hi! My name is Nicole Mack. I am 13 years old. I would like a pen pal between the ages of 12 and 15. I am going to be in the eighth grade at Nettleton Junior High in Nettleton. My hobbies are swimming, jumping on the trampoline, bicycle riding, talking to my friends on the phone, and playing with my black toy poodle named Midnight. I go to Richmond Church.

Route 1 Box 648
Planterville, MS 38862

Dear Pen Pal Club:

Hi! My name is Bridget Ivey. I turned 15 years old Aug. 12. I have two brothers, 11 and six years old. I have two cats and two dogs. I like talking on the phone, writing, skating, and country music. I go to Creston Hills Church and I attend Siwell Middle School. I'm going into the eighth grade. I would like to hear from a girl or boy. Send a picture if you have one.

Write to:
3714 S. Hines Street
Jackson, MS 39212

Dear Pen Pal Club:

Hi! My name is Amanda Seals. I am 10 years old. My birthday is Jan. 1. I have one brother and sister. I enjoy swimming, playing softball, playing games, listening to my radio, reading, and writing letters. I do not care if a boy or girl writes me. Send a picture if you have one. My address is:

802 W. Hinton Avenue
Lumberton, MS 39455



Reaching families through VBS

A total of 136 children and workers attended the Vacation Bible School (VBS) at Mars Hill Church, Winston Association. Average attendance at the VBS was 108. The church has a total membership of only

142, with Sunday School enrollment of 57. Tony Linley, pastor, called Mars Hill's VBS a successful example of a rural church reaching unchurched families for Jesus.



Bethlehem Church, Laurel, recently held a service to recognize the members of its Bible Drill teams. Both the children's and youths' teams participated in the church, association, and state drills. All members of the children's team (top photo) received Superior Awards. They are (left to right): front row, Brittany Kelley, Spencer Clark, Kandace Wilson, Matt Reid; back row, Jamey Kelley, Jessica Blackledge, and Jennifer Smith. The youth team (above photo) consisted of (left to right): front row, Eric Parker; John Blackledge; Brandy Jones, who advanced to the preliminary level and then to the selection competition; back row, Chad Walley, Roderick Walters, Daniel Suttle, and Alan Smith.



The tune for Yankee Doodle was sung in Europe in the Middle Ages. It was first sung in the United States to make fun of untrained American troops during the French and Indian Wars. By 1768 new lyrics made it a favorite in every patriotic camp.



It was two Algonquin tribes, the Michi Gama and the Michi Sepe, that gave the names to the states of Michigan and Mississippi.

CARRIER ROUTE 39
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901 COMMERCE ST 401
NASHVILLE

Baptist Record

Bibliocipher

By Charles Marx
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RBW CUQJTW, V HJXU MIVHZTF; RBW XF
GUERGW VP EVAQ XU, AJ KVOU UOUGF XRB
RHHJGWVBK RP QVP EJGZ PQRTT CU.
GUOUTRAVJB AEUBAF-AEJ: AEUTOU

This week's clue: B equals N.

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Ephesians Two: Seven.

August 22, 1996

Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205